

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4449

THREE COPIES ONLY FOR EUR/EE ANDREWS FROM BROWN

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SUBJ: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

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1. WE WERE INTERESTED IN JAN NOWAK'S INFORMATION, SOME OF WHICH, HOWEVER, SOUNDED LIKE NOT VERY WELL DOCUMENTED GOSSIP. CERTAINLY WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SAW HIM THE CARDINAL WAS VIGOROUS AND FORCEFUL IN A LANGUAGE (FRENCH) WHICH HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT HAVE MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE. HE HAS TRAVELED A GREAT DEAL LATELY WITH NO APPARENT SIGNS OF WEAKNESS. OBVIOUSLY WE WILL MONITOR THIS QUESTION, BUT NOTHING, INCLUDING CARDINAL BAUM'S ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETINGS WITH WISZYNSKI SO FAR, LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANY HEALTH PROBLEM, EVEN HIS RECENT MEDICAL HISTORY AND HIS AGE ARE AGAINST HIM. THE ONLY CAVEAT WE WOULD ADD IS THAT THERE ARE RUMORS THAT AN EXPLORATORY OPERATIONS LAST YEAR REVEALED INOPERABLE CANCER. IF THAT IS SO IT IS EITHER IN REMISSION OR DISPLAYS AS YET NO OUTWARD SIGNS.

2. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, RELATED TO
PARA 5 C REFTTEL, ARE REPORTS THAT SOME YOUNGER
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CLERGY ARE ENTERTAINING REBELLIOUS THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT - TO THEM - IS THE CHURCH'S APPARENT APPEASEMENT OF THE REGIME. WE SEE NO SERIOUS SIGNS OF THIS YET, BUT IT COULD INTRODUCE A NEW MILITANCY WHICH MIGHT BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE REGIME THAN THE CHURCH.

3. NOWAK'S REPORTS ABOUT PILOTOVICH ARE TITILLATING, BUT ARE NOT FULLY CREDIBLE. WHATEVER PILOTOVICH'S SINS VIS-A-VIS THE PARTY AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE "PHYSICALLY STRUCK" SOMEONE. SIMILARLY, HIS REMARKS AT THE NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION, EVEN IF OFFENSIVE TO US, WOULD HARDLY BE THAT IMPORTANT TO GIEREK. PILOTOVICH IS AN APPARATCHIK WITH LITTLE IMAGINATION (HIS BIGGEST FAULT), BUT WITH SOME SENSE OF REALISM. SEVERAL COMS HERE HAVE COMMENTED ON HIS GOOD BEHAVIOR SINCE THE AMBASSADOR TOOK HIM TO TASK DURING HIS COURTESY VISIT.

4. WE RECOMMEND PRUDENCE IN ASSESSING THE POLISH FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL DESPITE REPORTS OF DISSATISFACTION, ESPECIALLY IN THE SHIPYARDS, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE WHO MAY OR MAY NOT SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING SOME REASONABLY EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION.

SCHAUFEELE

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